

IN THE CLAIMS

1. (Currently Amended) A starter assembly for a gas discharge lamp, the starter assembly comprising:

at least one switch located in the gas discharge lamp;

a control unit operable for actuating the switch;

wherein the control unit is programmable to receive a first preheat time for the gas discharge lamp; and

wherein the control unit actuates the switch for a predetermined length of time.

2. (Original) The starter assembly of claim 1, wherein the switch is a normally open magnetic switch.

3. (Original) The starter assembly of claim 1, wherein the control unit is comprised of an electromagnet operable to close the magnetic switch.

4. (Original) The starter assembly of claim 3, wherein the control unit further comprises a microprocessor electrically connected to the electromagnet.

5. (Canceled)

6. (Currently Amended) The starter assembly of claim ~~5~~ 4, wherein the control unit actuates the switch according to a programmed first preheat time.

7. (Currently Amended) The starter assembly of claim ~~5~~ 4, wherein the control unit is programmable to receive a second preheat time.

8. (Currently Amended) ~~¶~~The starter assembly of claim 7, wherein the control unit is operable to actuate the switch according to the second preheat time.

9. (Currently Amended) A starter assembly for a gas discharge lamp, the starter assembly comprising:

a magnetic switch located in the gas discharge lamp;

an electronics module operable to actuate the magnetic switch, the electronics module further comprising:

an electromagnet;

a control unit operable to control the operation of the electromagnet;

wherein the control unit comprises a programmable microprocessor, said microprocessor being programmed with a first preheat time; and

wherein the electronics module actuates the magnetic switch for a pre-determined length of time.

10. (Original) The starter assembly of claim 9, wherein the magnetic switch is connected in series between at least two electrodes of the gas discharge lamp.

11-12. (Canceled)

13. (Currently Amended) The starter assembly of claim ~~12~~ 9 wherein the control unit causes the electromagnet to actuate the switch for the first preheat time.

14. (Currently Amended) The starter assembly of claim ~~12~~ 9 wherein the programmable microprocessor is further programmed with a second preheat time.

15. (Original) The starter assembly of claim 14 wherein the control unit causes the electromagnet to actuate the switch for the second preheat time.

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